

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

VOL. V.

General Summary of News.

[No. 194.

We have received by the Ship Hooghly London Papers up to the 25th of May, on which day, it appears, that the Funds fell 3 or 4 per cent. and all was consternation in the mercantile and monied world. We shall examine these Papers for information beyond our last European date, and prepare to give an abstract of them in our next.

The importance of the Meeting at the Town-Hall TO-DAY is sufficient to suspend all other topics, until we have spoken of that. Our readers will therefore indulge us for a moment, as it will probably be the last time that we shall address them directly on this subject, the Meeting now placing it in abler and more efficient hands. We claim their patience, therefore, for this one hearing, preparatory to their attending the Meeting in question, and leave the result of their convictions to themselves.

Desirous of affording every aid in our power to the clear understanding of the Vestry Question, and to remove as far as we are able every stumbling block that lies in the way of a clear and distinct view of the subject; we sent to Mr. LLEWELLYN, for the Statements of Accounts, which were tendered to the Newspapers for gratuitous insertion, with the intention, if they could be brought into a reasonable compass, to give them a place in our Journal, for general information.

Mr. LLEWELLYN very readily furnished us with the Accounts in question, and visited us personally at the Office, to offer any verbal explanations that might have been required.

Altho' these Accounts are drawn out in the clearest and most concise manner, we regret to say that they are so voluminous, that they could not be contained in a less space than a whole number of our Journal; and that the printing of them could not be undertaken, according to the calculation of our Printer, in their present form, without interrupting our daily publication; since it is one of the principal features of our Establishment to confine it wholly to the printing of the Journal, and we have neither types, presses, room, nor workmen, to execute any thing besides.

We have, however, been able to collect the following facts, from the Statement furnished by Mr. LLEWELLYN; and these we have his authority to state, as accurate, as they bear the Signature of W. MORTON, and are therefore official.

Total Receipts & Balances.			Total Disbursements.			Total Balances 31st Dec.					
Years	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Years	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Years	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1811, ... 40,599	11	11	11	1811, ... 28,178	8	0	1811, ... 12,421	3	11		
1812, ... 45,447	13	10	10	1812, ... 30,419	8	8	1812, ... 15,028	5	2		
1813, ... 52,745	1	9	1813, ... 30,830	2	8	1813, ... 23,914	15	1			
1814, ... 80,541	4	10	1814, ... 37,695	11	0	1814, ... 42,845	9	10			
1815, ... 87,365	7	2	1815, ... 42,980	7	0	1815, ... 44,385	0	2			
1816, ... 91,401	13	2	1816, ... 50,812	13	2	1816, ... 40,589	0	0			
1817, ... 81,761	11	1	1817, ... 55,898	8	0	1817, ... 25,863	3	1			
1818, ... 67,801	11	10	1818, ... 47,602	9	6	1818, ... 20,199	2	4			

Such are the facts which we have taken from the abstract Statement, from the year 1811 to 1818, both inclusive, and which we have arranged and publish gratuitously, not because we think that Public Charities should have such a claim on Newspapers as to insist on this privilege; but because we will leave them no excuse, as far as we are ourselves concerned, for having withheld from the Public that which it was their bounden duty long ago to have published.

While we are on the subject of printing, we may add that the *Government Gazette*, which has already given gratuitous insertion to the few confessions into which the present holders of an usurped right, have been evidently forced by the popular feeling against them, was the proper organ for communicating or exhibiting these Accounts to the Public. If we are rightly informed, an application to the Government might have procured an Order for its gratuitous insertion in that Paper, as this is one of the conditions on which that Gazette is established.

But if published annually without such an Order, and duly paid for, we are prepared to prove, that the whole of the accounts which we have seen, would not cost more than 500 rupees to print in detail; and our Printer would be satisfied with this amount for his labours. We might ask, therefore, whether such a sum, yearly, out of a Fund that amounted in 1816 to upwards of 90,000 rupees could be a sufficient reason for withholding, for a period of nine years, the publication of the Vestry Accounts:

Another consideration might be mentioned, that if they had been printed in the *Government Gazette*, and even paid for liberally, it would have been doing an act of charity in making such a disbursement; as it must be well known to the Vestry, Old or New, that the profits of that Paper are applied to the support of the Military Orphan Fund, and that such an object was quite within the range of their duties to promote. In our opinion, therefore, they are entirely without excuse for having withheld these Accounts so long.

If regarded as a question of abstract right, we should pronounce any one who held the absurd and abominable doctrine of non-responsibility of men in public trust, and justified their silence on that ground, to be either deficient in understanding or abandoned in principle. In this view of the question, therefore, we pronounce them wrong.

If they were *really* deterred from printing the Annual Accounts, as they profess to have been, because of the expense; they must have been misinformed as to the amount of the cost, (which, if they were vigilant, they ought to have detected); or they must have been deceived and blinded by the grossest ignorance of the general feeling of society (which, if they were watchful they ought to have sounded and known); in deeming the saving of 500 rupees out of 90,000—an object worthy to be put in competition with the conscientious performance of their duty, and the upholding their reputation as faithful guardians of the public trust reposed in them. In this view of the case, also, we contend that they were in the wrong.

But, without meaning to praise ourselves, let us see what this "Paper of the Public,"--which so many, who are "righteous overmuch" affect to think full of nought but defamatory bitterness, worm-wood, and gall,--has effected, by the novelty of free discussion, and the habit of thinking, feeling, and expressing itself frankly, upon subjects which it was formerly the custom, in the "good old times" to regard with reverence and awe, and which there are still many who would be glad to see again enveloped in that profound and impenetrable mystery with which Fraud, Tyranny, and Imbecility, delight to be surrounded, but which Virtue, Freedom, and Truth, despise, as suited only to cloke that which dreads the light, and will not bear examination.

It has effected this:--It has drawn from the Vestry, who affected to hold public opinion in contempt, the strongest confession they could give of their feeling it to be omnipotent. It has caused them to apply all their labours in preparing an Account of the Receipts and Disbursements of the last ten years, for public information; and we can certify that those Accounts, which were brought to us for inspection, by Mr. LLEWELLYN, are *newly* drawn out, executed upon fresh Paper, manufactured in England in the year 1816! with the Company's mark, and most probably arrived in Calcutta, only in the present year 1819!!--though containing the Accounts from 1811 to the end of 1818. This, too, is the Account that is pretended to have been hung in the Vestry for public examination though it certainly has not been nailed on the Board on which they profess to have exhibited it in the Vestry Room, and in which state it was brought to us, string and all,--for many days!!!

Is it supposed for a moment, that such a Farce as this will satisfy the Public? that the men who have had the disposal of 90,000 rupees a year at their command, to pension worn-out and faithful servants of their own, or of their Friends; to give to lazy and sturdy Hindoo and Mussulman Fuqueers, while their countrymen are often pining in sickness and in want? (for such are the accusations which, in their *dignified silence*, they have suffered to pass by unanswered). Is it to be supposed, we ask, that the Farce of exhibiting an Account, *new* in all its particulars, even to the very paper in which it is written, should be received as a proof that they have *always* had those accounts ready for public exhibition, and were always prepared to print them for public inspection, were it not for the expense? It is preposterous to suppose that such a trumped-up expedient would have succeeded, even if we had not taken the pains to expose its fallacy; for it is too glaring to pass undetected even by the most indolent.

We cannot forego the temptation of adding here the short history of a successful triumph of pure principle and public perseverance, over licentious lay-akuse and despotic priestly power; as, from its being furnished to us from a source of indisputable accuracy, and having happened within the memory of many on the scene of our present existence, it will be likely to have some effect in encouraging a full attendance at the Meeting of TO-DAY, and a determination, on the part of the Friends of Freedom and political justice, (for they are involved in the issue of the question), to support with the firmest tone, and the most unshaken fidelity to their cause, the principles they have all along avowed as their guide, in repelling, by every means in their power, the attempt to trample on their rights as men and citizens.

The circumstances of the little history to which we allude are these:--About forty years ago, the Catholic community of Calcutta who paid their contributions to the Vestry Funds, were in the habit of choosing, by open election and vote, the Churchwarden and other Officers to whose care these Funds were confided. It happened, however, that the Members of the Vestry found the command of the Funds to be so desirable an object, that they set about devising means for ensuring to themselves the perpetual enjoyment of so inestimable a blessing. The step which they took to accomplish this, was a daring, but nevertheless a successful one. They applied to the Bishop of Maliapore, or St. Thomé, near Madras, in whose Diocese the Church here was included; and as the application was probably accompanied by some flattering and appropriate pledge of the Petitioners' regard for the Very Reverend Prelate, it brought up immediately a *Pastoral Letter*, to constitute the Existing Vestry a *perpetual one*.

The consequences of this were soon apparent. The Funds were misappropriated; Charities neglected; Jealousies and Suspicions went abroad; Do-

nations and Contributions slackened; and at length, the Catholic Church, from having a full treasury and superabundant wealth, became deeply in debt. The Catholic Public, (for with all the despotism of the Catholic Religion and the ecclesiastical tyranny with which we are always taught to believe it clothed, they admitted the existence of a Public, and its right of election, while our *poorer, milder, and more tolerant* Protestant rulers, scoff at the very idea of such an unhallowed interference with sacred rights and perpetual privileges.) The Catholic Public, we say, demanded an exhibit of the Vestry Accounts, and a change of men, as well as measures, knowing how much the latter always depend upon the former, and how senseless the attempted separations of them is, in those who would fain be thought uninfluenced by characters and opinions.

The cunning culprits, who were all laymen, set their forces to work; and with their ill-gotten wealth or influence brought over the Priest, who, when the congregation demanded a Meeting in Vestry, shut up the Church! The service of God was of no importance in their eyes, compared with the worship of Mammon; and since we have Divine authority and daily proof of the impossibility of serving these two masters; they adhered to the more profitable service of the latter, and kept the Church impenetrably closed.

The Public were not, however to be shaken; they still retained, it is true, a respect for those feelings and principles, which their pastors and deacons had so wantonly abandoned; and believing the Church, as a consecrated edifice, to be the *only* place suited to Meetings intended to regulate its government, they lamented in silence, that the shutting it up by the Priests and their bribers, rendered it impossible to remedy the evil without an act of sacrifice in making a forcible entrance, and bursting asunder by violence gates that should never be entered, but in humility and peace.

It was discovered, however, after some time, that as the Church-yard was consecrated ground, it was as well suited to the object of the Meeting, as the Church itself, and that the election of new Vestrymen could take place there, without any violation of their respect for established Church regulations. The gates of this were even barred against them; but they were able to surmount this difficulty, by getting over the railing and the wall; and having met together in full assembly in the Church-yard, elected the Vestrymen of their own choice, and voted the old Offenders, and the Priest who supported them, all out of office together!

But the Sinners held possession, and the Reformists were still unable to force them to open either the Church-yard gates, the Church-doors, or, what was the great end of all their wishes, the Church Books and the Church Funds. All were kept closed, in *dignified silence*, and in contemptuous scorn of so vulgar a sound, as the voice of a *clamorous and inflammatory* Public.

That Public, however, as faithful to its civil, as to its religious principles and rights, still persevered. A subscription was set on foot,—a prosecution instituted in the Supreme Court;—and an expenditure of 10,000 rupees at Law, brought down judgement on the heads of the obstinate and iniquitous despisers of justice, and of the public voice.

The Vestrymen were expelled;—the virtue of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, that constituted them *perpetual*, was denied, and made of no effect;—the Priest, who had abused his power in sheltering them so long, was discharged from office;—and the members of this odious Oligarchy were, by the blessing of Providence, dispersed and destroyed!

The benefits of this unshaken firmness and perseverance were soon apparent. The Church Wardens and Vestry were now composed of *one* Priest and *four* lay members,—each of whom were made responsible individually, and the whole as a body collectively, to the Catholic congregation, or such of the community as in any way contributed to the Funds of the Church. They were, and still are obliged to *close* their Accounts every month, and exhibit them publicly every two years; at the end of which period, a *new* Election takes place, and the conduct of the Wardens and other Officers is examined into, and pronounced on accordingly. Even the Priests themselves are made responsible to their flock, for any irregularities of life, or conduct; and hold their places on the tenure of *public approbation*!

By this system, which has ever since been adhered to, the Funds of the Church have been so redeemed, that from being at that period, (about 20 years ago) nearly a lac of rupees in debt, they have now upwards of two lacs of rupees in hand; while Charity has flowed into new and untried channels; and the very consciousness and security of the Funds being well applied, has tended to make the donations to it more abundant than at any former period of their Church history, tho' neither the Catholic population, nor their means of wealth, have latterly increased.

Such is the brief history of this authenticated case;—such the force of public opinion;—and such the benefits that result from acting on *principles* rather than *convenience*!

Are there any who will say that the Catholics would have done better to have expended their 10,000 rupees in Charity, than to have had it swallowed up in Law; or that the Protestant party who are TO-DAY to contend for the same responsibility of trust in the Protestant Vestry, would do well to expend their money and their labours in adding to the Church Funds, rather than in advocating principles, and maintaining rights? We will tell them, that without the expenditure of *that* 10,000 rupees, the Catholic Church would have remained involved in debt, and the springs of Charity would have been for the last twenty years, entirely dried up; whereas, now, *that* twenty years, thanks to the reform which the public spirit of the Catholic community wrought in its administration, has seen more than twenty thousand distressed individuals relieved! and has added nearly twenty times twenty thousand rupees to its funds, by clearing off more than a lac of debt, and leaving a balance of more than two lacs in hand!!

If there can be any so weak among our readers, as to imagine that the same causes which operated so unfavorably to the Funds of the Catholic Church would not affect those of the Protestant also, let them look for a

moment at the short Abstract which we have obtained from the Vestry Clerk, for an illustration. They will there find, that from the year 1811 to 1816, the amount of annual receipts had progressively increased from 40,000 to upwards of 90,000 rupees, or more than double; arising unquestionably from the increase of the European population and wealth of this city. That augmentation of means has continued, from 1816 to the present time, in an increased ratio; yet the receipts have diminished, thus:—in 1816, 90,000—1817, 80,000—1818, 70,000—and probably will this year get back to the old standard of 1811, 40,000; from the distrust and unwillingness that must always exist to place funds into a gulf which is for ever closed from public inspection, or which, at least, *has been* so for the last ten years, and is now only drawn out by *terror*, and loses all the virtue of a voluntary act.

Is it possible, we ask, that any one can be so besotted as to suppose that the Vestrymen in power were such ideots, as that, with the plain facts before them, that the receipts were diminishing by 10,000 rupees a year, for the last three years; that the Public were dissatisfied at their not publishing their Accounts; and that they might restore the public confidence, redeem their characters, and restore the falling Funds, for an expence of 500 (let it be 1500) rupees a year,—they could yet be restrained from printing them, because of the expence?

They manage their own concerns, we hope, much better. If they do not, they must have great reliance on *good luck* to keep them from ruin; and whether they do or do not, this simple fact of the constant yearly diminution of the receipts,—while the numbers, the wealth, and the charitable benevolence of the Christian community, are all increasing in the uninterrupted march of events—ought alone to shew that they are unfit to hold the trusts reposed in them (however upright and amiable in private life, which we are among the first to believe); and that if this continued reduction goes on for a few years longer, the history of the Catholic Church will be repeated in that of the Protestant one, and from having a balance of 20,000 rupees in hand on the 1st of January 1819, there will appear a debt of 20,000 rupees long before the 1st of January 1829.

The Public then, perhaps, awakened from the dream, may find, too late, that, after the example of the Catholics, 10,000 rupees expended in the maintenance of a *principle*, in the defence of an *abstract right*, would have added thousands to the list of deserving and distressed objects relieved by their Funds! and tens of thousands to the donations contributed to these benevolent ends!+

We shall say no more than a word to repel the charge of partiality which has been urged against us, for the part we have taken in this affair. If it be meant that we are partial to truth, equity, and sound doctrine, we rejoice in avowing our devotion to these; if it be meant, however, that we advocate a cause in which we *feel* no interest, and that we are actuated by personal considerations, we repel the charge with scorn. We have ourselves lost the patronage and support of many of our readers in town, and still more in the country, because of this "eternal" Vestry Question, as they call it; but were this far more extensive than it has been, we should still glory in the contention for what we believe to be *right*, and we trust, that all those who hold the privilege of free-thinking, free-speaking and free-acting, to be blessings worthy of being preserved, will join the Assembly to be convened at the Town Hall TO-DAY; and by the exercise of these distinguishing characteristics of Men and Britons, be prepared to contend, in thought, word, and deed, for the right of public election to offices of public trust;—the justice of demanding the most satisfactory explanation of the disbursements of Funds raised by public contributions;—and, above all, for the interests of the Poor and distressed of our fellow countrymen, in want and exile;—many of whom may be effectually relieved while the Funds of Public Charities flourish, while thousands may perhaps pine in wretchedness and die in misery, if these sources of relief be progressively diminished, and at last extinguished, by the want of public confidence, and the continued contempt shown to public feeling and to public opinion.

EUROPE.

In continuing our series of Parliamentary Intelligence, the first in the order of dates that we meet with, is a short report regarding the London Clergy, which is prefaced in the Paper from which we obtain it, as follows:

"Reverend Mendicants.—The Reverend and very Reverend Mendicants of the City of London must be a little sore when they see the petitions from their beloved flocks, who come forward in such numbers to show how little they deserve what they are begging. We would recommend these gentlemen to study the three following verses from the Psalms, in which, if we are not mistaken, they will see themselves reflected as in a mirror:—

"They are not in trouble as are other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart can wish; They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily."

"Will these Sinecurists be more able, if they get what they are asking, to despise the "pomp and vanities of this wicked world," as that catechism, which they put into the mouths of little children, directs all men? What do they say to the statements of Mr. C. Grant the Irish Secretary, respecting the active benevolence of the Catholic Clergy,—of men who are paid for what they do, and not for employing others to act for them? A long list of the vices of "Excellent Church" may be found by the curious in Mr. Bentham's Church-of-Englandism; and in the mean time we think, the following list of some of the Reverend Pluralists will give the reader at one glance a view of two,—impudence and hypocrisy."

The List is long and full, but as it requires great caution in India to mention names, without being thought to be personal, we shall leave the London Editor to his own responsibility.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY, APRIL 6.

CITY CLERGY, &c.

Mr. LAMBTON presented a Petition from the inhabitants of the parish of St. Gregory by St. Paul, against the Bill for the further relief of the London Clergy. The Petitioners stated that they were obliged to pay the minor canons of St. Paul's an annual sum of not less than 1,500L—Laid on the table.

Sir ROBERT WILSON presented a similar Petition from the united parishes of St. Mary, Southwark, and St. Matthew in the West; it stated that their rector was non-resident, and that they were already assessed at 12s. in the pound, in addition to the poor-rates.—Laid on the table.

The Hon. G. LAMB said, that the Petition he held in his hand, was most numerously and respectfully signed by a great number of the inhabitants of Westminster, praying for the removal of the Haymarket from its present situation, to some part of Portland-road. Notice of this proposition had been already given to the residents in the neighbourhood of the Haymarket, and to the magistrates connected with it, who did not make any opposition.

Mr. BYNG would resist any proceeding in contrariety to the standing orders of the House. He should decidedly oppose any application to remove a market which had been established for so many years.

Mr. LAMB thought Parliament would see the reasonableness of removing the market after the great improvements recently made in that quarter. He hoped the House would permit the Petition to be brought up, and the standing order of the House to be suspended.

The House divided—For the motion, 97—Against it, 91—Majority, 6.

Mr. J. SMITH presented a Petition from St. Margaret, Leadenhall, against the London Clergy Bill. It stated, that their rector received 368L a year from the parish, but resided in Somerset. They had not had a resident rector for 70 years.—Referred to the Committee.

A Petition was presented from some parish in the County of Glamorgan, stating, that for some time past the poor rates had been insufficient to support the paupers, but lately that had been impossible, owing to the enormous increase of population (17,000 souls); that nearly all the labouring class were out of employment; and that they must all be thrown upon the parish, unless some speedy relief was afforded.—Laid on the table.

Mr. BENNET presented a Petition from St. Peter's, Cornhill, against the London Clergy Bill. It stated that the Rector enjoyed, besides some lucrative benefits, stipend of 600L a year, and that he had not performed duty above six or seven times for a long time.—Referred to the Committee.

Mr. BENNETT presented a Petition from William Berry, an Englishman, complaining of the hardships suffered by Englishmen from the local laws of Guernsey, and praying for relief. In 1816 a Report had been made on the state of the laws, and a plan had been devised to assimilate them to those of England: but not one step had yet been taken to produce the salutary effects. Among many other privileges enjoyed by the natives of that island, from which Englishmen were totally excluded, was the protection from arrests. A native of Guernsey or Jersey might bid defiance to his creditors, but an Englishman was liable to be arrested for even so small a sum as 2*1/2*d: and when arrested, was generally imprisoned among felons and murderers.—Laid on the table.

DISEASE IN IRELAND.

Sir J. NEWPORT entered into some details respecting the dreadful state of the fever in Ireland. He was ready to admit, that the former legislative enactment had been productive of good; but as the ravages of disease still continued, he thought another Committee should be granted. In the counties of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, 43,000 persons had been admitted into the Fever Hospitals in the space of 15 months. If the Committee should be appointed, it should be instructed to examine, not only respecting the disease, but into the means of providing for the employment of labouring poor, not out of the public purse, but by enabling the proprietors of waste lands to employ them, either individually or in associations. The misery out of doors made the poor people wish to become inmates of the Hospitals. The Hon. Gentleman concluded by moving for a Committee on the subject.

Mr. C. GRANT was happy to second the motion. It appeared, however, that the disease had for the most part declined during the winter months. The Hon. Gentleman bore testimony to the patience evinced by the poor Irish under their afflictions, as well as to the laudable exertions of the other classes to relieve them, particularly those of the Catholic Clergy, who were constantly, from the nature of their profession, attending the bed of sickness. Not a single instance had occurred of a Catholic Clergyman shrinking from that holy duty, notwithstanding the malignity of the fever. (Hear, hear!) Nay, he had heard of a Catholic Clergyman who had visited a cottage, in which six persons lay afflicted with the fever, and so closely did they lie, that the Clergyman was under the necessity of lying on the same pallet with a dying man, in order to receive his last communications. The Clergy of all persuasions were emulous to discharge their duties. The Hon. Gentleman also praised the conduct of the medical body, and the wealthy classes. He would support any plan for removing obstacles to the employment of the poor, but he was decidedly hostile to a proposition which some had advanced for extending the English Poor Laws to Ireland. [The Hon. Gentleman sat down amid long and loud cheering.]

After some more remarks, the motion was agreed to, and the Committee named.

MONDAY, APRIL 26.

MARRIAGE ACT.

Dr. PHILLIMORE moved the further consideration of the Report on the Marriage Act Amendment Bill.

Sir C. ROBINSON opposed the measure, though he admitted that there were some defects in the present law. He particularly objected to those provisions that related to the period, within which it should be permitted to those who had married during their minority to set aside the union: as well as those that referred to the residence of the parties in the parish where the bans were published, for a certain time before such publication.

Sir J. MACKINTOSH observed, that the present law was most tyrannical: it made the children of an impudent marriage the first sufferers by it, and it inflicted a stigma upon the female who had contracted it, who was the very person who ought to be defended against the caprice of a profligate husband.

Dr. PHILLIMORE, in reply, said that there were many persons, even in high life, who had the bans for their marriage published in parishes, where they were utterly unknown, which facilitated clandestine marriages; and it was the object of his Bill to prevent this, by rendering a certain period of residence in the parish necessary to such publication of bans.

On a division, the motion was carried by 97 against 33.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29.

SALT DUTIES.

The Report of a former Committee on the Salt Duties, declaring them to be very oppressive and impolitic, and that the state of the finances alone prevented their repeal, being read,

Dr. PHILLIMORE observed, that the financial condition of the country was the only reason why the Committee of last year had not recommended the abolition of the duties, and that reason was now removed by the increase of the income since that time (3,000,000L). This tax was a tax on the necessities of the poor, and was very heavy on them, a bushel of salt being taxed at forty times its value. For that reason also, it operated most injuriously on their morals, the temptation to sell untaxed salt being so great. Another effect was the discouragement of the fisheries, as the tax required so much capital that the trade was thrown into the hands of a few great monopolizers, besides enabling the Dutch to undersell us in our own markets. One of the Secretaries of the Admiralty had declared, that 20,000 more seamen would be employed, if these duties were removed. He wished to place on the journals a record of the opinions of the House, which would serve as a foundation for any future measure; and should therefore move a resolution, declaring that, considering the severe pressure of the salt duties on the lower orders, and the advantages to be derived from a more extensive use of that article, the gradual reduction and total repeal of those duties, were highly expedient.

Mr. DAVENPORT concurred in the opinion of the Learned Doctor. Foreigners were enriching themselves from the greatest source of wealth that Providence had bestowed upon us. By an enormous and impolitic duty of 3000L per cent. on an article of necessary subsistence, we at once deprived ourselves of a nursery for seamen, and held out an irresistible temptation to fraudulent practices.

Mr. WALLACE argued, that the tax could not be considered very oppressive by the people, as not a single Petition had been presented for its repeal, although the people were always ready to petition for any thing in which they were interested. He admitted the facility of evading that duties, but thought that evil was lessened by the greater profit that could be derived from the evasion of other duties. It produced a revenue of 1,500,000L a year with very little expense for collecting, and its principle was very equitable, as being a tax on a commodity it fell equally on all classes. The fisheries had been improving under these duties; and indeed so great was the quantity of fish cured last year, that the market price did not pay the curers. The Dutch fish was not sold lower, but higher than ours. He might appeal to the state of the salt-mine districts and the small number of convictions for evading the tax, to show that its effect was not very demoralizing.

Mr. CORWEN denied that the tax was equally borne by all classes. A large quantity of salt was used in the composition of bread and article so much consumed by the poor. From the income of the rich the tax did not take more than a thousandth part, while from the wages of labour it cut off a twenty-sixth. The tax was now more oppressive than formerly, because the wages of the poor had not risen in proportion to the increase of taxes, but were regulated by the demand for labour. The small number of convictions proved nothing, for were not thousands of cases compromised, which had become a source of monstrous profit to some parties? In the last year we had paid 10,000L to foreigners for food, which showed the propriety of granting every facility to a species of labour, which both provided food, and employed numbers of people. He knew that this produce of the tax was necessary, but some better substitute might readily be found.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER contended, that the tax could not be considered excessive, in proportion to the increase in manufactures, agriculture, &c.; and that the fisheries had not been injured by it.

The House divided—For the motion, 60—Against it, 127—Majority 77.

CHARGE AGAINST AN IRISH JUDGE.

Mr. MARTIN moved for the copy of the indictment found in Sept. 1814, against Edmund Burke, an attorney, for perjury, and the verdict of the jury, &c. His charge against Baron McClelland was, that he had not postponed the trial of Burke, on affidavit by himself (Mr. Martin) and others, stating the impossibility of the attendance of certain necessary witnesses, on the part of the prosecution instituted by him.

Sir G. HILL defended Baron McClelland, and read a written statement of the Learned Judge, giving a flat contradiction to every circumstance mentioned by Mr. Martin, and also charging that gentleman with having offered him the most gross personal insults.

Mr. MARTIN made a long reply, which threw the House into convulsions of laughter, by a most extraordinary detail of his judicial squabbles, in the course of which he compared Baron McClelland to a hare for his timidity, and a tiger for his ferocity : he was called to order by the Speaker.

The motion was negatived without a division; and the House adjourned.

LAW CASES.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Wednesday, April 28

Mr. Carlisle, bookseller, of Fleet-street, appeared at the bar, when two indictments were read to him, for publishing certain blasphemous writings, *Paine's Age of Reason*, &c. He pleaded not guilty, and was then informed that the indictments would be tried at the sittings after this term.

Friday, April 30.

ARTICLES OF THE PEACE.

John Bligh, Earl of Darnley, came into court, and exhibited articles of the peace against Mr. Bligh. They contained charges against the latter, of having followed the Noble Earl in France, Italy, and England, always carrying pistols in his pocket, and using language, and conducting himself in a way which endangered the personal safety of his Lordship. As his Lordship did not wish to press for a warrant, the Court ordered that Mr. Bligh should give security, himself in 6,000*l.*, and two sureties in 3,000*l.* each, for five years.

CONSISTORY COURT, DOCTORS' COMMONS.

Friday, April 30.

LADY HERBERT AGAINST LORD HERBERT.

This was a suit for restitution of conjugal rights, instituted by the Hon. Octavia Spinelli, Princess Dowager of Butari, in Sicily, commonly called Lady Herbert, against Lord Herbert, son of Earl Pembroke. The parties contracted a clandestine marriage at Palermo, on the 17th of August, 1814, and the Lady arrived in London in the month of March, 1817.

Sir Wm. Scott observed, that the parties in this cause were neither of them minors, and therefore competent to take the step they had decided upon. It appeared that Lord Herbert being in the year 1814 in Sicily, was introduced by Lady Bentick into the family of the Prince de Butari, whose palace was the great resort of the English nobility. Lord Herbert endeavoured to gain the favourable opinion of the prince, whose husband dying in June, 1814, she shortly after clandestinely married his Lordship. It was established by law, that if a marriage was valid in the country where it took place, according to the rites and usages of that country, it was a good one here. The Court therefore thought the Lady entitled to her prayer; and therefore decreed Lord Herbert to receive her as his wife with conjugal affection.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DUBLIN.

Wednesday, April 21.

SEDUCTION.—BIRCH v. MEREDYTH.

Mr. BURROWES laid the plaintiff's case before the Jury. There was but one witness, called Sarah Birch, daughter to the plaintiff, a very interesting English girl, of 19 years of age. The following were the leading facts of the case:—The plaintiff was the proprietor of an hotel in Broadstairs England, within half a mile of which his daughter Sarah resided, at the house of her aunt.

In August, 1815, the defendant, a young Irish gentleman, under age who had lately become the owner of an estate of 4 or 5,000*l.* a year, arrived, at the plaintiff's hotel, and having seen the plaintiff's daughter, then but 15 years old, at her father's, and being struck with her personal attractions, he soon effected an acquaintance with her. He induced her one evening to take a drive in his barouche, but she finding he was taking advantage of her inexperience, got alarmed, and asked him where he was taking her.

He gave her an evasive answer, renewed promises of marriage he had made to her before, and continued driving on until they arrived at 11 o'clock at night at a town 30 miles from Broadstairs; after supping they retired to their respective rooms. While the young lady was in the act of locking her door, the defendant made his way in, and in spite of her remonstrances completed her ruin. After taking her to different places in England, they went to Batt's hotel, Dover-street, London, where they were pursued by her brother. The defendant made his protegee disguise herself in the dress of a house maid, and contrived to avoid being taken up by the police officers.

He then came over to Ireland, and took a house for her at Ranelagh, where she was confined in July, 1816, of a boy. For some time longer, the defendant treated her with kindness, although so jealous that for sixteen months she was never permitted to cross the threshold.

At length, his conduct changed; and she stated that he even beat her cruelly. He sent a friend to tell her that he must part with her, as he was going to get married, and had therefore taken lodgings in town for her new abode with no more than 5*s.* in her pocket. Here she remained for several months, without his coming near her or giving her any money, except on one occasion a pound note; and on another 2*l.* She was consequently compelled to pawn even to her child's frocks.

The witness, in stating this, pulled the duplicates out of her purse, at which the Learned Counsel who was examining her (Mr. Gold) was so much affected as to be unable to refrain from shedding tears. The wretched girl herself wept bitterly. Verdict—2,000*l.* damages.

EUROPE.

Highlanders.—Among other benevolent exertions making for the Highlanders, is the kind concern of some worthy Ladies in Edinburgh, who have collected among themselves near £ 200, to buy English and Gaelic tracts, to disperse in the most unfrequented and inaccessible parts of that country. It is hoped this good example will be followed by other benevolent Christians, in different parts of the country.

Attempted Suicide.—On the 15th of April, a young gentleman, who we understand, is related to a Noble Scotch family, made a most extraordinary attempt upon his existence while confined in St. James's watch-house, on a charge of forgery preferred against him. The young gentleman who is not more than 20 years of age, a short time ago called at Greenwood and Co.'s and there offered a bill of exchange to the amount of £60, purporting to be their acceptance. He left the office, and afterwards the bill proved to be a forged one. Information was immediately given of the circumstance to persons to apprehend the tender, and on Monday night last intelligence being received that he was at a coffee-house in Piccadilly, a constable repaired there and took him in custody to Marlborough street office, where he underwent an examination, but was remanded for the attendance of the Clerks to whom it was offered, and other necessary persons.

Electors.—Mr. Protheroe, Member of Bristol, has published a circular letter, addressed to the electors of Bristol generally, in which he says, "I have the pain to acknowledge the receipt of 6000 letters and upwards, from you, dated April 1, complaining of my late parting address, which has caused all so much uneasiness. But your letters have put me to an expense in postage (the letters being charged double) of 800*l.* and upwards, in addition to my former unexpected expences. I hope, therefore, you will repay me 1s. 8d. each, otherwise I shall find myself justified in returning each elector's letter to the writer."

The Bristol election, it is said, cost Mr. Protheroe 3,500*l.* exclusive of 2,100*l.* subscribed by his family, and the 700*l.* mustered by his constituents.

Earthquakes, Pyramids.—The Emperor Joseph II. heard every body who pretended to discover to him any thing useful. By this means he often lost much precious time. Baron Calisius once begged an audience to propose to the Emperor a matter of great importance; it was granted him; the conversation was as follows:

Calisius. The city of Comorn in Hungary has the misfortune to be visited nearly every five years by earthquakes, which have often occasioned great damage, and still expose it to the utmost danger, and threaten it with total destruction. Now, I have remarked, that in Egypt there never were nor are any earthquakes. But as Egypt differs from other countries only in having pyramids, it follows that pyramids must be sure preventatives of earthquakes.

The Emperor. So then it would be good to build some of these edifices in Hungary?

Calisius. This is my humble proposal, and I here present your Majesty a plan how they may be erected.

The Emperor. But have you calculated the expense?

Calisius. No: but I believe for three or four hundred thousand florins two handsome pyramids might be built; a little smaller indeed than those in Egypt.

The Emperor. Has the city of Comorn so much money?

Calisius. No: but I hope your Majesty will contribute, and the rest might perhaps be raised by a subscription.

The Emperor. Well, I have nothing against it. If a suitable place can be found, which is fit for nothing else, and you will undertake the work on subscription, begin to build as soon as you please; but I cannot fix the amount of my subscription, before I see at least one pyramid quite finished.

Lord Paget's Axioms.—In a common-place book formerly belonging to William Lord Paget, and now in the possession of his descendant Lord Boston, are the following axioms:

Fly the Courte,	Never earnest,	Care for home,
Speke little,	In answer cool,	Pray often,
Care less,	Learn to spare,	Live better,
Devise nothing,	Spend in measure,	And dye well.

The noble writer was successively the confidant of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary, and Elizabeth; and may be supposed to have steered his course with safety through the dangerous commotions which agitated both Church and State in those eventful reigns, by strictly following the above axioms.

English Catholics.—The petitions and consequent Parliamentary proceedings respecting the emancipation of the Catholics, may perhaps render the following statement acceptable to our readers:—The total number of Catholics in England and Wales is computed to exceed 300,000. The principal Roman Catholic counties are Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Northumberland. These, with Durham and Cheshire, the next in number, contain about 200,000. London and suburbs, with Surrey and Middlesex, are rated at 50,000. The remaining 50,000 are thinly scattered through the other counties and cities—but chiefly in Bristol, Bath, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Southampton, Exeter, Gloucester, and a few watering places. In every county of England there are Roman Catholic chapels and congregations. Altogether, there are about 900 Roman chapels, mostly erected within the last 20 years, and generally clean, commodious, and well-built. Lancashire alone counts upwards of 100 Roman Catholic chapels. Moreover, most of the Roman Catholic country gentlemen of fortune maintain chapels in their own houses. The Roman Catholic Peers are eight in number; their names and titles are as follow.—Howard, Duke of Norfolk; Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Stuart, Earl of Trabuan; Livingstone, Earl of Newburgh; Barons—Stourton, Petre, Arundel, and Clifford. There are seventeen Catholic Baronets in England. In the beginning of the last century, there were above 60,000 Roman Catholics in the Highlands of Scotland alone. With a few exceptions, most of the Gordons, Macdonalds, Mackintoshes, Macphersons, &c. were Roman Catholics; their grand and great-grand children are Protestants.—The rebellions of 1715 and 1745 effected this change, by dissolving the feudal system; the children of the gentry, in general, particularly those but remotely allied to chieftains, were dispersed, educated in the south, and put to business.

Poor's Rates.—The Provisional Committee for the encouragement of industry and reduction of poor's rates, which was held at the King's Head, in the Poultry, have circulated the following very sensible resolutions:—“That the prosperity of a country is best promoted by the productive employment of its population; that the providing employment for the industrious poor, and by these means diminishing the pressure of poor's rates, is of the most essential interest; that the Provisional Committee have already ascertained the following—That labourers will willingly occupy and cultivate small portions of land if such are obtainable on easy terms. That such practice encourages and leads to industrious habits; that children have a suitable employment; that forecast and economy are studied; that great, and in numerous instances most heroic efforts are made and the greatest temporary privation submitted to, to avoid a dependent state; consequently, that parochial relief is even shunned; that character is dear to them, and in general public worship on the Sabbath regarded; a desire of education is cherished; that habits of temperance are invariably promoted; petty thefts, which tend to flagrant offences, and the greatest enormities, prevented. That the plan stands recommended in other respects, being favourable to bodily health and exertion; is a check to a spirit of wandering, so mischievous to teatry; and is indeed calculated to arouse and confirm the utmost energy and exertion.”

Game Laws.—The Bill recently introduced by Mr. Brand, for the better preservation of game, if passed into a law, will defeat its avowed purpose, and add to the existing evils arising from poaching by lessening its difficulties, and affording a source of continual disputes, and litigations among neighbouring landholders. It annuls those prohibitions which our ancestors for near 500 years thought requisite; it levels all distinction, and enables the dissolute penniless poacher, equally with the yeoman, the country gentleman, or Peer, by virtue of a game certificate, to kill game. It makes fugitive untenable game (a questionable sort of property) the property of the land owners, and affords damages for trespasses in pursuit of it; and does it not give the poor poacher, in league, very probably, with the lessees of estates, a degree of safety from prosecution, which land owners and others, from their ability to pay both damages and costs in these fertile days of enterprising attorneys, cannot expect? This Bill allows of dealers in game under a licence from two Magistrates. Will not this quicken every idly disposed person, able to destroy it, to take out a certificate, keep greyhounds, &c. and support a disorderly life by the sale of plundered game? for he can safely dispose of it to such dealers. This bill pretends to prohibit the taking of game by nets or snares; but can this be done, if allowed to be kept? for such engines are used when the industrious and honest are generally in bed. Now, what are the objections to the present laws? Mr. Brand complains, that even our affluent men cannot buy game; let such, whether nabobs, merchants, or stock-brokers, be content with 3 per cent for part of their vast borders; let them do good to the land we live in, buy some of it, employ the poor, cultivate it, pay poor rates, highway-rates, dog-tax, &c. and let them have game, and the pleasing satisfaction that it came from their own estates.

What is the other hardship that is complained of? Why that those who do not possess land of the value of £ 100 per annum (which, by the decrease of the value of money since the 22d and 23d of Ch. II. is no more than a fourth of the qualification then required,) are subjected to the penalty of £5, which is, however, seldom or ever levied on a licensed person of respectable character, but operates to deter persons of small substance, or idly inclined dispositions mispending their time, to the injury of themselves and others. At present the farmers, on whose estates game is found, regularly partake of it from the hands of those gentlemen who hunt or kill it, and very often join in the diversion themselves; if used unkindly, they may have recourse to an action of trespass. The gentry in towns, respectable tradesmen too, have repeated presents from their landed acquaintances, which will cease, if a sale of game be permitted. If this bill pass into a law, many most respectable and worthy gentlemen will desert their resi-

dences in the country for the less expensive and troublesome ones of the town, to the loss of the poor, to the injury of agriculture, and to the increase of dissolute manners among the lower orders.

Abstract of the Report of the Finance Committee.—The total amount of the Revenue of Great Britain and Ireland, in the year 1818, was £3,563,937l., being £68,573l. more than the estimated produce. If, from this excess, there be deducted, the amount of unappropriated war duties as stated, (viz. £66,639l.) then the produce of the permanent Revenue for the last year will have exceeded the estimate by £109,1934l. By adding to the aforementioned sum of £3,563,937l. the sum of £240,000l. as the profit of the Lottery, and £50,000l. as the produce of Old Naval Stores, the public revenue of the country for the year 1818 will have amounted to £4,053,937l.—The next point of comparison instituted by the Committee, relates to the aggregate produce of the Revenue, in the two years ended 5th January, 1818, and 5th January, 1819. From this it appears, that the total Revenue of Great Britain for the latter period, exceeded the total Revenue for the former, by the sum of £1,706,510l. The Revenue of Ireland for the same period shews an increase in favour of the last year of £92,969l., which, added to the sum of £1,705,510l., makes a total improvement of the Revenue of the United Kingdom, of £1,898,479l.—The probable expenditure of the United Kingdom for the current year is estimated at £67,779,882l. The Committee have not taken into their consideration any increased expence which may arise, out of the manner in which provision may be made for meeting the supplies of the present year, or for the expence which may attend any measure which may be taken with a view of reducing any part of the unfunded debt.

Duke of Wellington.—A correspondent informs us, in reference to what we said sometime ago, respecting the Duke of Wellington's unwillingness to be considered an Irishman, of one instance in particular, where his Grace actually disowned his country. It seems that after he had risen to the top of his glory, the gentlemen of the Queen's County (the Duke's birth place) entered into a subscription, for the purpose of erecting a testimonial in honour of his achievements, and addressed his Grace in the most complimentary terms, on the subject, with some allusions to the land that “first cradled his fame.” The reply which he vouchsafed, they considered to be strongly tinged with hauteur and thanklessness; in consequence of which, and its containing a direct intimation that he did not wish to be thought an Irishman, the subscriptions were instantly withdrawn, and all idea of a testimonial relinquished!

Alderman Wood.—We could not, says a London Editor, get in even a short notice of the dinner to celebrate the election of this honest Representative on the Tuesday previous; although it was worth notice, if it was only on account of this circumstance,—that the Prince Regent received the same compliment from the company that is usually paid to his father,—“the good old King,”—his health being drank in *solemn silence*, notwithstanding the Chairman had announced that it would be accompanied with “three times three.” The Duke of Sussex had been invited to take the chair, but excused himself on account of a severe cold, at the same time expressing his regret at the circumstance. This, together with the unfortunate, though profound, “silence,” has called forth the indignation of the *Courier*, who is sorry to discover that his former reprimands have not been successful in keeping the Royal Duke out of such unfit company; and wonders that his Royal Highness will degrade himself by a fondness for “tavern popularity, praises which the fumes of wine inspire, drunken, riotous, applause, stammered from the tongue of intemperance, mingled with epithets of coarse familiarity.” How is it that we hear nothing of all this at Pitt dinners and loyal meetings? Oh no! On such occasions there is nothing but “sociality” and “hilarity,” and “good humour;” and the company are always equally dull and genteel. It would be curious to compare a list of the gentlemen with whom the Duke of Sussex was willing to have dined on Tuesday, with a list of the favoured companions of his Illustrious Brother, whose name excites so much *still reverence*.

Pestilence.—According to accounts received by the Magistrates of Lowenburg, a dangerous contagion was stated to have broken out in the manufacturing town of Reichenberg, in Bohemia (only four leagues from Lowenburg, and a league from the frontiers of Silesia,) of which 100 persons had died up to the 20th of March, and 400 others were ill. The disease, which seems to be the typhus pestilential, causes death in 36 hours. Persons have been sent to make the necessary inquiries, and in the mean time every precaution is adopted to prevent the spreading of the disorder.

Clarinet Player.—A new clarinet-player has appeared at the Philharmonic Society, who is said by good judges to enjoy deservedly the reputation of being the first in Europe. His name is Baermann. The Chronicle says, “he pays a short visit only to this country, but was anxious to display his talents before the connoisseurs who frequent so distinguished a Concert. He has a perfect command of the instrument, and executes, with astonishing neatness, the most rapid passages; but the more pleasing part of his performance consists in the softness rather than in the fulness of his tones, in the ‘dying fall’ that he produces, which is sweet and tender, and if employed in the performance of passionate music, would yield, we are persuaded, a delicious effect.”

Modern Sermons.—There is no species of composition that seems to stand more in need of an infusion of fresh vigour than sermons. Many of our preachers seem to think that the intrinsic charms of the truth are so obvious as to supersede the necessity of any outward display of them; and however much, as Swift observed in his day, they may fall short of the Apostles in working miracles, they greatly surpass them in the art of setting men asleep.

AMERICA.

An arrival of Tuesday, which brought Letters from Rio de Janeiro of the 5th of June, some of which we have seen, confirm the report of Lord Cochrane's having been unsuccessful at Lima, though the particulars are variously stated. Some reports make the defeat a serious one, with the loss of many officers and men; others say, that he saw the strength of Lima and its squadron to be too great for his force, and retired unharmed after a skirmish. —The authority for the first report, was a vessel which spoke the Carnatic. That for the latter is the arrival of a Frigate at Rio Janeiro from Lima, with treasure, part of which she discharged there, and the remainder took on to Europe.

The Letters from Rio Janeiro report also, that Artigas with the greater part of his army, guns, horses, and baggage, had fallen into the hands of the enemy; and that the depredations of cruisers were as great as ever.

The following are the notices, that we meet with in the late English Papers, of affairs in that quarter of the globe, up to the latest date known in England:

Cession of the Floridas.—Arrivals from America during the week have brought the outline of the treaty by which the Floridas were ceded by Spain to the United States, and also the intelligence that a law has been approved by the President for protecting American merchants from the piracies of vessels sailing under the flag of the South American Patriots. This law contains very severe enactments, and is supposed by the *Times* to be connected with the cession of the Floridas, and one of the acts by which America repays Spain for that cession. We do not see the necessary connection between these two things: the law may be simply what it professes to be, a protection for the merchants; for it is known that the flag of the Patriots is made use of by marine banditti, who attack any vessels that fall in their way.

The same Journal has been reproving the conduct of America, in first offering to England to acknowledge jointly with her the independence of the Spanish colonies, and then accepting a bribe from Spain to assist that country against them. We confess, that we should have preferred a more strait-forward conduct on the part of the United States: it would have been more consonant to their own principles of liberty, and perhaps quite as advantageous for them in the end, to have at once declared the Patriots their Allies, and have set the imbecile government of Ferdinand at defiance. But this is perhaps too much to expect from any government in these times of political selfishness. Nor is the Republican government without excuse. A war with Spain would at least be injurious to their trade; and it is, besides, a matter of little doubt that the Spanish Provinces will ultimately free themselves, in spite of the long-talked of, but never-appearing, Cadiz Expeditions. The American diplomats have indeed managed the matter in a very clever manner. By sending out Commissioners to report on the state of the South American Colonies, and by also proposing to us to acknowledge their independence, they created a very natural alarm on the part of the Spanish Ministry, who knew that it would be all over with them, if such an acknowledgment took place. The cession of Florida was the consequence, and that at a much less price than would have been taken by Spain, but for these appearances of an intention to join the revolted Colonies. But how does this show any inordinate ambition or grasping on the part of the Republicans? Is it singular or surprising that a young and powerful State should become possessed of a contagious province, held by a distant and impotent Government? Perhaps it would be more fair, after such examples as those of Poland, Saxony, &c. to say that the singularity consists, not in their having obtained it by negotiation and for an equivalent, but in their not having seized it by force, seeing the perfect facility with which they might have done so.

The English government is not an unconcerned spectator in this business: every step taken by America must be of importance to us; and the proximity of these new possessions of such a rising nation to our West India islands makes us particularly interested in the present. The *Times* has very clearly shewn the propriety of an immediate acknowledgement of the South American Patriots simply as a measure of policy. "Great Britain," says the writer, "obviously holds in her hand the instantaneous emancipation of all Spanish America. For Old Spain she has nobly done a thousand times more than mere duty demanded. She has conferred upon that kingdom a series of services which no time can obliterate or repay. If age has not taught the Spanish Government wisdom—nor the highest obligation impressed it with gratitude—but if, on the other hand, the only return it makes us be the sale of our safety to a public rival, it is time that we should make the experiment of what wisdom or gratitude may be found among those whose friendship Spain compels us to cultivate, as the only indemnification for those evils to which she has herself deliberately exposed the British Empire. The ministers of England we are willing to hope, have now resorted to a policy so urgent and so natural; and they may be well assured that Parliament and the nation will cordially join them in carrying it into execution."—This is very good advice; but it is doubtful whether it will be taken. "Legitimacy," however it may have assisted Lord Castlereagh and his colleagues in other matters, stands in their way here. They are almost too much pledged to support the doctrine.

If any intention to be liberal were manifested, what remonstrances would pour in from all the "Divine Right" Monarchs in Europe! "Good God! my Lord Castlereagh, are you going to help a set of rebellious fellows, who are impudent enough to want to separate themselves from their rightful masters? Will you encourage the very notions that we have all been struggling for 20 years to repress? What a shocking example to your own

subjects in the East and West Indies! and what a dangerous precedent for those countries who think they have a right to govern themselves—for Italy, Poland, and Norway!"—The polite and amiable Foreign Secretary would be in constant dread of a visit from the haughty and indignant Spanish Ambassador, and would tremble on opening a dispatch from any of the Christian Members of the Holy Alliance.

Canada.—A late publication upon Canada, where the writer has long farmed extensively, strongly recommends that country to English emigrants in preference to most parts of the United States of America. The land in Canada, when well managed, is very productive, and the chance of securing, besides a good living, ultimate independence to the farmer, certain. The spring and summer months being very warm, not unhealthfully sultry, the rapid advance of vegetation is almost incredible to those who have not actually witnessed it. Wheat has sometimes been sown as late as May 11th, and harvested in the August following, the produce weighing upwards of 63 lbs. per bushel. Limestone is abundant, and various other manures easy to be obtained. Cherries, chestnuts, walnuts, hickory, hazel and filbert nuts, being natural to the soil, grow wild; as also grapes, gooseberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, and black currants. All the superior European fruits flourish there, and orcharding is most successful. The following returns of the various crops are given in the work, as from the ordinary farming of the country, which is capable of great improvement:—Crop of wheat, from 25 to 30 bushels per acre; buck wheat, 15 to 20; rye, 15 to 25; barley, 15 to 32; oats, 30 to 40; Indian corn, 30 to 50; horse beans, 25 to 35; potatoes, 250 to 500 bushels per acre; carrots and parsnips, from 700 to 900; turnips, from 500 to 700 bushels; cabbages, from 18 to 25 tons; hay from one and a half to two and a half tons. Game in immense quantity and variety.

Havannah.—Letters and Papers to the 10th of March from Havannah have been received, by which we learn that the fleet of Spanish ships which sailed from that port on the 26th Feb. under convoy of a frigate and sloop of war, for Cadiz, had a few days after their departure experienced severe weather, and were compelled to return to the island. Several of them narrowly escaped being captured by the Insurgent privateers, and had the vessels continued on their voyage, no doubt several of them would have fallen into the hands of the Corsairs, if separated from the ships of war accompanying them. The slave trade with the coast of Africa in January and February last had been less active than usual. The Havannah Diary contains only a small list of ships which had arrived within that period, but a number of vessels were preparing to leave Cuba, and would return after having obtained fresh supplies of negroes.

South America.—The following is an extract of a private Letter from Madrid, dated March 21:—"The two vessels which arrived within the last few days at the port of Cadiz, from the Havannah, have brought with them dispatches from different parts of our South American colonies. As yet, however, the Government has published nothing in the Gazette of this city, with regard to the situation of affairs in that direction, and it is generally supposed that they are not of a favourable nature. According to the information contained in the commercial advices, it would appear that the Vice-royalty of Mexico may be considered to be in a state of tranquillity; the Insurgent bands having almost entirely disappeared, and those that remain are timid from the smallness of their numbers. With regard to affairs in Peru, they do not wear that tranquil appearance. It is said to be menaced by formidable armaments, both by the land and sea, and it is supposed that the succor expected from the mother country will arrive too late to save Lima. Six millions of piastres, and also considerable quantities of cochineal and other valuable articles of merchandise, had arrived at the Havannah, and could be immediately shipped for Cadiz."

Peru.—Accounts from Cadiz state, that the viceroy of Peru, to preserve a communication with such ports as were occupied by the Insurgents, had given notice of his intention to purchase several ships, which were to be armed, and as Lima had been thrown open to the British trade, he had no difficulty in procuring vessels. Several of them were of large tonnage.

Lima.—Extract of a letter from Lima dated Nov. 16:—"The Maipo Insurgent privateer, of 18 guns, and 130 men, has been captured by the Revolution, armed ship, which went from Callao in pursuit of her. The action which took place near Pisco, lasted five hours, and appears to have been of a desperate nature. The crew of the privateer were twice repulsed in their attempts to board; but her bowsprit and foremost being shot away, and the Royalist vessel threatening her with immediate destruction if she did not surrender, she struck her colours. On the side of the Insurgents there were 20 killed, and 30 wounded, while the loss sustained by the Royalist only amounted to four killed and 20 wounded. The Maipo was chiefly manned by English and Americans, having only 15 Spaniards on board. The name of the Commander was Brown; but whether an Englishman or an American, is not stated. Captain Sheriff and the Audromache frigate were at Callao at the date of these letters. Four vessels of the convoy from Cadiz, the Atocha, San-Fernando, Santa Maria, and Xaveria, arrived safe at Callao on the 23d of October; they were wholly ignorant of the fate of their companions; they are said to have landed their troops at Talcuhuano. Capt Sanchez, with 500 troops, and aided by native lancers to the number of 1500, was then in possession of the place. From Lima, the Esmeralda, Venganza, Pezuela, and Cleopatra, were preparing to sail on a cruise. The inhabitants of Lima were not without expectations of a visit from the Insurgents, but very little apprehension was felt on that score. The military force is described to be considerable, and in the best order; the levies would shortly complete the army to 12,000 men; of which number, 7000 were in full training, and in complete equipment."

Shipwreck.

We have already given a pretty full account of the circumstances attending the loss of the ship *Hayston*, and had no expectation of returning to the subject, but having been politely favored with another, considerably more circumstantial, and containing also very interesting particulars respecting the inhabitants of the Maldives, we can scarcely perform a more acceptable service to our readers than to re-publish it nearly verbatim, as it would suffer by abridgement, and cannot be curtailed, except perhaps at the commencement. It has been drawn out by Captain Schultz, (well known in the country service, who was acting as chief officer of the *Hayston*), from memoranda that he had taken regularly during the successive days to which the narrative refers.

In the first paragraph the prosperous passage of the *Hayston* is particularized, until the 14th of July, when she crossed the line in longitude 69° E. Easterly winds were then experienced, which prevented a passage being made to the Southward of the Maldives, and these continued until she had got into more than 2° N. The wind then shifted to the Westward and Northward, and every exertion was made to reach the eight degree channel speedily. On approaching the Maldives, as the ship went to the Northward, the Easterly current appears to have affected her strongly, for the Longitude, by account, and also that brought on from the last observation for the chronometer, impressed the belief that the ship was, on the 20th, a long way to the westward of any danger. No observation had been obtained for three days before, and unfortunately on the evening of that day, a short time before it was intended to tack to the westward, the breakers were perceived to leeward. The helm was instantly put down, but, when in stays, the ship's stern struck the reef, and the surf appeared heavy all around. From this period we continue the narrative as we find it stated in the communication alluded to.

When the ship struck, the rudder was knocked off by the violence of the shock, carrying with it the starboard counter. In the course of 15 minutes there were 8 feet water in the hold, the ship striking dreadfully, and the surf breaking over the bows. Nothing but dismay and consternation to be perceived on deck — some praying, others crying, and all in disorder. Some were for cutting the lower masts away, others for lowering the quarter boats down; in fact the suggestions of the moment were the only ones thought of in the first period of alarm. At last order was restored, and the men proceeded readily to execute the duties required of them, the gunner and seacunni shewing themselves very commendably as the most alert. The sails were furled, and the top gallant, top mast, and lower yards sent down, ready to make a raft of. The topmasts were then cut away, the lower masts being left standing, for the purpose of getting out the boats.

On the 21st at 4 a. m. some of the people called out that they saw land, and I immediately went on the poop to ascertain whether this cheering news was correct. I waited there with anxiety until the day dawned, but my sensations may be perhaps imagined, although they cannot be described, when I found that what the lascars thought was land, was only an immense ridge of rocks extending to the Northward and Southward, as far as the eye could reach, and just even at that time with the water's edge. On this ridge we had struck, and afterwards found that the tide flowed seven feet above the highest part of it.

When the day-light disclosed our situation, we all looked at one another in horrid silence, and I could read in most of the countenances round me that all hopes of deliverance were entirely extinguished. As the sun rose, a lascar bawled from the main top, with the voice of a Stentor, that he saw an Island. We directed our telescopes in the way that he pointed, and discerned from the poop a small Island, appearing like a long boat; about 15 miles distant, and bearing N. N. E. This we named the Island of Hope. At noon I found the latitude by observation to be 6° 11' N. Nothing particular was done this day, as every one was exhausted by the fatigues of the preceding night, and there was evidently no possibility of getting the ship off and keeping her afloat.

On the 22nd we had boisterous weather and an immense surf, washing every thing from the forecastle aft to the poop. Every person was anxious to quit the ship, but I succeeded in dissuading them from the attempt, representing that the ship would certainly hold together for several days, and that as long as they remained on board they were in safety, but, by leaving the ship before the weather moderated, they would subject themselves to the severest hardships, and perhaps to utter destruction. Employed easing the ship, by throwing every thing overboard from between decks and cutting away the bowsprit. Three men were extremely desirous of quitting the wreck, and of trying to reach the Island of Hope. A small catamaran was accordingly made for them, and about ten A. M. they took their departure. At noon they were out of sight, but I am sorry to say, that up to the day of quitting the King's Island, which was nearly a month after, we had no intelligence of their having reached any of the Islands, and I fear that they have met with a watery grave.

On the 23rd, the weather was still squally, and prevented all thoughts of endeavouring to quit the vessel. Employed in getting some fresh water out of the hold.

On the 24th, the weather had moderated a little, and all hands were employed in sending spars to the reef for the construction of a large raft sufficient to carry every one. The work went on prosperously, and when the raft was nearly ready, the gunner was sent as a trusty man to guard it, for we suspected that the lascars upon it would otherwise prove treacherous. At this time the water on the reef had risen to about four feet. The gunner had to wade a long way before he could reach the raft, and when he was within twenty yards of it, the lascars cut the painter and left the poor fellow standing in the water up to his neck. He called to them to return, but to no purpose, they shewing him an axe, and making signs that they would cut him down. If he attempted to reach them. Perfidious villains! You will one day certainly meet your deserts. The poor man must have been drowned before our eyes, had it not been for a lucky circumstance, which also contributed afterwards to the preservation of us all. When we had thrown our Coir Cables overboard, they floated towards the rocks, and got entangled on the top of the reef, thus making a place where some footing could be obtained at high water. There the large raft was made, and the gunner contrived to reach it and remain until the evening, when the water fell. He then came down to the surf, and having sent him a rope, we hauled him on board, after he had been about nine hours in the water.

On the 24th, finding that there was not the smallest dependence to be placed on the lascars, and our principal spars being gone, I thought of preparing the smallest jolly boat (of only 12 feet keel) in such a manner as to get through the surf without being knocked to pieces. Accordingly I had a tarpaulin nailed all over her, and then took a coil of 2½ inch Europe rope, with which I lashed her all round fore and aft, to defend her against injury from edges of the rocks in the surf.

On the 25th, I had her lowered into the surf, myself and three other persons being on the tarpaulin, but she had no sooner got into the water than the surf upset her, and turned her round like a ball. The people on board looked anxiously to see what had become of us. First of all the boat reappeared, keel up, and soon after we all four arose like as many ducks to the surface, and got hold of the boat. We were then hurried rapidly by the surf towards the rocks, and when we could get a footing, we began to haul our boat to the reef with all our strength. There we examined her carefully, and were happy to find all tight and staunch. While employed in baling her out, the people on board were employed in getting the long boat out, which was launched into the surf about ten o'clock. She came towards the reef without upsetting, but an immense surf forced her violently upon it, and stove her bottom in. The pinnace was shortly after launched, but was soon upset and bilged.

By this time we had got our little jolly-boat to the other side of the reef, and were waiting anxiously for the long boat and pinnace, in order to proceed in company in quest of relief. At length we observed a raft coming towards us, on which were Captain Sartorius, a female passenger, young Miss Byrne, the Serang, and his brother. We immediately pulled towards them, and learned that both the boats had been stove. As these dreadful tidings were communicated, we observed a Maldivian boat under sail, apparently standing towards us. The Serang and his brother were immediately dispatched on the raft to the reef with the cheering news, and taking the others into the jolly boat, we pulled with all our might towards the stranger, but, alas! what was our grief to find, after having pulled for several hours, that another large reef still separated us from the fishing boat. We had thus been pulling hard all the afternoon, as it were after a phantom, and the night coming on, we resolved to return to the reef, there to await the day-light.

In the mean time, the long boat, full of water, had got adrift with a woman, (the Ayah of little Miss Byrne,) and her two daughters, girls of ten or twelve years old, together with three men. As nothing had been heard of these people when we left the Maldives, it is to be apprehended that they perished at sea.

Besides these unfortunate people, there were on the reef, Mr. Meyer, Master Wm. Byrne, and seven lascars. Young Mr. Byrne had been in the long boat, but when it got adrift, he left it and regained the reef. Mr. Meyer, in the evening, when the water fell, wishing to get again on board the ship, where there still remained nine persons, had got hold of a rope stretched towards the shore, but his strength failing him, he was dashed against the rocks and expired in sight of all, without their being able to render him any assistance. The lascars and young Byrne took the opportunity at low-water of collecting a heap of coral, which they piled on the highest part of the reef, and were thus enabled to keep themselves above water during the night.

At dawn of day, on the 26th, we set off in the jolly-boat towards the Island of Hope. At 1 p. m. we had only got within four miles of it, but were then fortunate in describing three boats under sail, standing towards us. About an hour after, one of them came alongside, and, having boarded her, we found that she was a fishing boat belonging to a small Island, called Macandoo, about twenty miles distant. In a short time the two other boats came up, and after having made a number of enquiries, they engaged to proceed towards the wreck, taking our jolly-boat with them, in order to rescue those who were left behind from their perilous situation. We proceeded in the first mentioned boat to Macandoo, where we arrived at sunset, oppressed with the fatigues of thirty-six hours' exertion, and extremely anxious for the safety of our fellow-sufferers.

Early on the morning of the 27th, Master Byrne, and the seven lascars arrived, having been picked up by one of the fishing-boats on the preceding evening; and during the forenoon the other boat returned, but to our great grief did not bring a single person, as, night having come on, her crew were afraid of remaining any longer near the reef. Every inducement was now held out to the Islanders to make them proceed again and rescue the nine persons remaining on board, but nothing could prevail with them, as they alleged that the weather was too boisterous.

When they had taken the persons off the reef, they had contrived to make the small jolly boat fast to some part of it, was fortunate that they had done so, as Capt. Birsay with 8 persons remaining, having safely quitted the reef on the morning of the 27th, got on board of her, and finally quitted the scene of our distresses. Not aware that they had done so, we were preparing to leave Macandoo, on the morning of the 28th, for another Island, about a day's sail off, where a chief resided, from whom we meant to solicit assistance to relieve our shipmates. As we were stepping into a Maldivian boat, with this intention, about 10 A. M. we saw a boat, very much like our jolly boat, coming round a point of land, full of people, and we had soon the joyful certainty of finding that they were Capt. Birsay and his companions.

Being thus joined by our shipmates, the most disagreeable of our anxieties ceased, and we took them into the boat with ourselves, leaving the jolly boat and such presents as we could muster with the friendly inhabitants of Macandoo, who had been so instrumental in our preservation. We then made sail for the next Island, the boat's crew catching fish all the way, and at sunset landed on Narre Warre Far, where we were very hospitably received by Ali-Sahed, the Governor. There we remained until the 2nd of August, when a boat was given us to proceed into the Island of Mall, where the Sultan resides.

We started in the morning, and after a considerable run we came to an anchor under the lee of a small Island in the evening, as it was dangerous to sail during the night. On the 3rd, we again set sail at day-light, and went on through a number of Islands until sunset, when we again anchored under a small uninhabited Island. This day we spoke another boat, and were informed that two of our people had arrived on some other Island upon a raft.

On the 4th, in the morning we continued our passage, and in the afternoon reached Mall, the Island where the Sultan resides and holds his court. After having been duly announced, we received permission to land, and were conducted to the house of the Collector of His Majesty's Revenues. There we were entertain-

